

R E M A R K S

Claim 21 is amended. Claim 25 is canceled. Re-examination and reconsideration are requested.

In the office action, paper number 6, dated May 24, 2004, 5 the examiner rejected claims 21, 22, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawai, et. al., U.S. Patent No. 6,043,866 (Kawai) in view of Strange (U.S. Patent No. 4,078,786 (Strange)). The examiner objected to claims 25-28 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicated that they 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include limitations contained in the base claim and any intervening claims. The examiner allowed claims 1, 2, and 5-17 (sic, 4-17).

Re the Claims:

Claim 21 is amended to include the subject matter previously 15 contained in claim 25 (now canceled). Claim 21, and the claims depending therefrom (i.e., claims 22, and 26-29) should now be allowable.

Re the Rejections of the Claims:

The examiner rejected claims 21, 22, and 29 as being obvious 20 over Kawai in view of Strange. However, these rejections are now moot based on the amendments to claim 21. That is, because the examiner indicated that claim 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim (claim 21) and any intervening claims, claim 21, which is amended 25 hereby to include the limitations of claim 25, should now be allowable. Claims 22 and 26-29 should now be allowable by virtue of their dependency from amended claim 21, which is allowable.

Re the Pending and Allowed Claims:

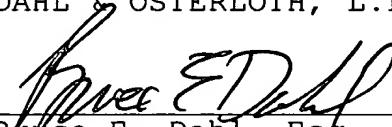
The office action erroneously indicates that claims 1, 2, 30 5-17, 21, 22, and 25-29 are pending. This indication is erroneous in that claim 4 also remains pending. Similarly, applicant believes the examiner's indication of allowed claims

to be erroneous in that it fails to include claim 4, which stood previously allowed prior to the current office action. Accordingly, applicant presumes that claims 1, 2 and 4-17 are allowed.

5           Applicant believes that all of the claims pending in this patent application are allowable and that all other issues raised by the examiner have been rectified. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests the examiner to reconsider the rejections and to grant an early allowance. If any questions or issues  
10 remain to be resolved, the examiner is requested to contact the applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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